

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-10 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-15

NSC-10 SCI-06 OMB-01 SS-20 HEW-08 DODE-00 AID-20 L-03

AGR-20 IGA-02 DRC-01 /165 W

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R 201125Z FEB 74

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4106

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 1067

FROM USDEL CND

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, UN

SUBJ: CND: DISCUSSION WITH THAI DELEGATION

1. US REP HAD GENERAL DISCUSSION FEB. 18 WITH THAI REP (CHITRA POSAYANONDA) CONCERNING NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAMS IN THAILAND OF MUTUAL INTEREST. USREP ASSURED THAI REP OF US CONTINUING INTEREST AND SUPPORT OF BOTH ENFORCEMENT AND CROP SUBSTITUTION PROGRAMS WHICH RTG HAS UNDERWAY WITH ASSISTANCE FROM US AND FROM UNFDAC. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS IN NORTH THAILAND WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL AND WOULD PROVIDE PATTERN FOR ACTION IN OTHER COUNTRIES ALSO CONFRONTED WITH NECESSITY OF ENFORCING LAWS AGAINST NARCOTICS AND ALSO DEVELOPING ALTERNATIVES TO ILLICIT OPIUM PRODUCTION.

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2. THAI REP CONFIRMED THAI GOVERNMENT POLICY IS TO ELIMINATE ILLICIT OPIUM PRODUCTION BUT FIRST TO DEVELOP

ALTERNATIVE CROPS WHICH CAN BE GROWN AND MARKETED IN LIEU OF OPIUM. HE SAID HILL TRIBESMEN ARE READY AND WILLING TO PLANT SOMETHING ELSE WHICH CAN BE DEMONSTRATED TO BE AN EFFECTIVE SUBSTITUTE. HE EXPRESSED OPINION PILOT PROJECTS ARE PROVING THEIR WORTH BUT THAT WORK MUST GO FORWARD GRADUALLY AT ABOUT PRESENT RATE. HE DOUBTED THAT CROP REPLACEMENT COULD BE EXTENDED ANY MORE RAPIDLY IN HILL VILLAGES. HE DID FEEL HOWEVER THAT REDUCED EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE WOULD MEAN SLOWER PROGRESS IN BOTH ENFORCEMENT AND REPLACEMENT PROGRAMS.

3. THAI REP EXPRESSED VIEW THAT ILLICIT OPIUM PRODUCTION PROBLEM IN GOLEN TRIANGLE AREA COULD ONLY BE EFFECTIVELY DEALT WITH THROUGH COOPERATION OF THREE COUNTRIES INVOLVED, AND ON "NON-POLITICAL" BASIS. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT US COULD FACILITATE AND ASSIST A COOPERATIVE EFFORT.

4. THAI REP ASKED WITH RESPECT TO ITEM 9 OF CND AGENDA WHETHER IT WAS TRUE THAT US INTENDED TO GROW OPIUM IN US FOR PRODUCTION OF MEDICAL OPIATES. USREP IN EXPLAINING EVOLUTION OF US POSITION ON THIS ITEM, MADE IT CLEAR THAT US EXPERIMENTATION WITH GROWTH POPPY STRAW WOULD BE FOR EXCLUSIVE PURPOSE OF RESEARCH WITH INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION TO IMPROVE PROCESSES WITH RESULTS TO BE MADE AVAILABLE INTERNATIONALLY. THAI REP OBVIOUSLY DESIRED AND RECEIVED ASSURANCES US HAD MADE NO REPEAT NO DECISION TO ENTER INTO DOMESTIC PRODUCTION BUT INTENDED TO CONTINUE TO MEET DOMESTIC REQUIREMENTS THROUGH IMPORTS.

5. IN COURSE OF DISCUSSION THAI REP EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT US EXPERIMENTATION WITH POPPY GROWTH IN US WOULD CREATE CONTROL PROBLEM WHICH USMIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO MANAGE. HE WAS FEARFUL OF THE DANGER ILLICIT GROWTH AND PRODUCTION MIGHT GET OUT OF CONTROL AND SPREAD THROUGH US, CREATING SAME PROBLEMS FOR US THAT THAILAND IS TRYING TO ELIMINATE. HE ASKED US TO CNSIDER EXPERIMENTAL PLANTINGS IN THAILAND RATHER THAN IN US AND DECLARED THEY WOULD BE EFFECTIVELY CONTROLLED IN THAILAND. USREP ASSURED THAI REP THAT US HAD ALREADY A DEMONSTRATED GROWTH AND PRODUC-

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TION CAPABILITY DEVELOPED DURING WORLD WAR II AND KOREAN WAY, YET HAD NEVER INITIATED PRODUCTION, AND THAT US IS CONFIDENT OF CAPACITY TO KEEP UNDER STRICT CONTROL ITS EXPERIMENTAL PLANTINGS FOR RESEARCH. IN REPLY TO THAI SUGGESTION USREP TOOK UNEQUIVICAL POSITION IT WOULD BE UNWISE AND DANGEROUS TO HAVE EXPERIMENTAL PLANTINGS IN THAILAND, WHERE THEY MIGHT PREJUDICE THAI PROGRAMS FOR ELIMINATING UNCONTROLLED ILLICIT PRODUCTION AND DEVELOPING REPLACEMENT CROPS.

6. WE SHALL CONTINUE OUR DISCUSSION WITH THAI DELEGATION
TO INCREASE THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF US POSITION AND PROPOSALS
ON ITEM 9 AND TO SEEK TO OBTAIN THAI SUPPORT OR AT LEAST
TO AVOID THAI OPPOSITION.DALE

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 20 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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